

Mine Reclamation by Composting

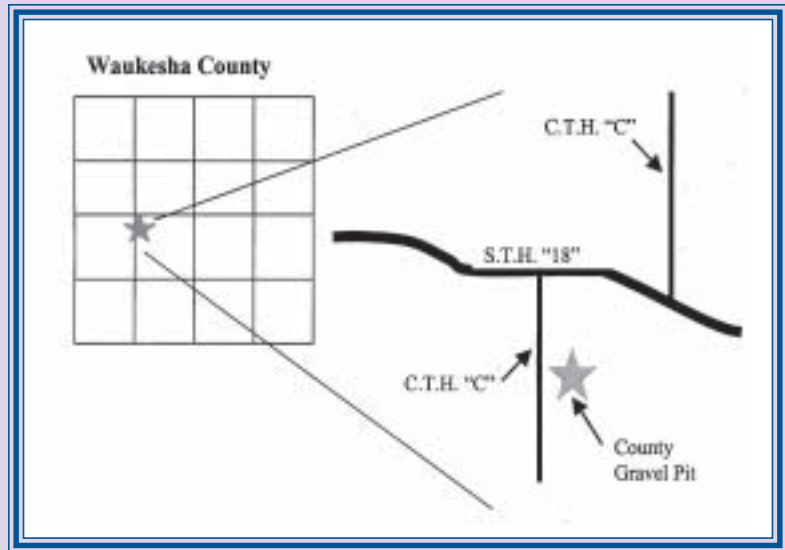
By: Perry Lindquist, Land Resources Division

A unique partnership is in the works for the county gravel pit in the Town of Genesee that could benefit the county, local communities and the environment. The county recently accepted a contractor's proposal that would allow additional sand and gravel mining to occur on the site along with a yard waste composting operation. The yard wastes would be accepted from interested communities in the county and composted on site to generate a topsoil substitute to reclaim the previously mined landscape.

This partnership allows the private sector to utilize the remaining mineral resources available on the county-owned property, while reclaiming the entire site for future urban land uses by using a waste product from our lawns and gardens. But the best news may be the financial impacts. The project will save disposal costs for the participating communities, net some additional revenues for the county parks system (through gravel royalties), while improving the value of the property by all without any additional costs to the taxpayer!

Many local communities have been struggling with what to do with yard wastes. While banned from landfills since 1993, about half of the communities in the county still collect leaves, grass clippings, tree trimmings and garden wastes due to citizen demand for the service. While yard wastes make up 15% of the waste stream, options for their disposal are limited, and can be costly for a community to administer. When a local composting contractor stopped accepting yard wastes in 1999, several communities asked the county to help out.

This project offers communities a viable option to dispose of their yard wastes, while demonstrating how intergovernmental cooperation and public-private partnerships can work at the local level. Stay tuned for an update this fall when we hope to begin the operation. ■



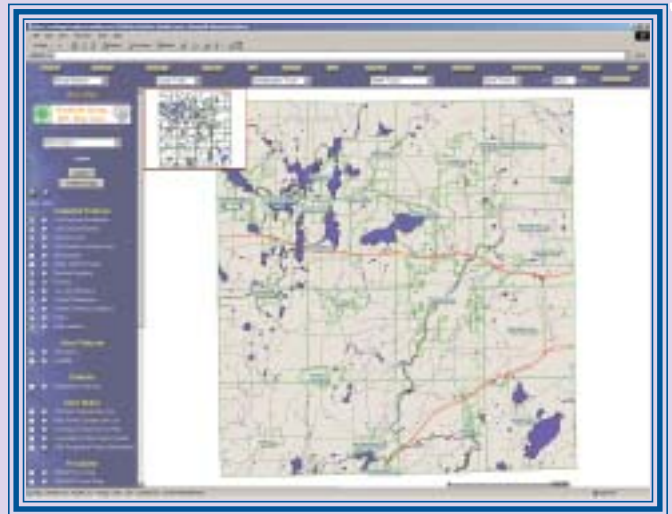
Internet Access to Land Information Available in July

By: Don Dittmar, Land Information Division

Waukesha County citizens will be able to access Land information via the Internet by mid July of 2002 using a mapping query system currently being developed. Locations in the County can be found by entering a known address or tax key number or by iwindowing in on a location displayed on a map. Once located, information regarding lot

dimensions, right-of-ways, and street names can be displayed. Natural resource information such as water features, floodplains, and soils will also be available. Planning information related to existing and planned land use as well as planned Open Space information can be displayed. Lastly, surface elevation and aerial photography will be available for viewing.

It should be noted that actual owner name and sensitive information relating to valuation will not be made available over the internet web site to protect the privacy of County land owners. The web site will have complete on-line assistance provided through a complete set of help screens and documentation regarding each presented data set. The above picture is a sample view of the site's opening screen. ■



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